

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 035323

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TH, MASS, PINR

SUBJECT: REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION ON DEFENSE DEPARTMENT
STAFFING LEVELS

REF: BANGKOK 10398 (JUNE 5, 1974); EMBASSY STAFFING
SUMMARY REPORTS FOR APRIL 1, 1974 AND JANUARY 1, 1975

1. NEED TO RESPOND TO A PROVISION IN SECTION 15(A)(3),
P.L. 93-475 (DEPARTMENT'S AUTHORIZATION BILL, ENACTED
OCTOBER 26, 1974) PROMPTS US TO SEEK CLARIFICATION CON-
CERNING STAFFING LEVELS FOR CERTAIN DOD ELEMENTS IN
THAILAND.

2. PROVISION IN QUESTION STATES: QUOTE - IT IS THE
SENSE OF THE CONGRESS THAT ... (3) THE TOTAL
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NUMBER OF PERSONNEL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE ASSIGNED

OR DETAILED TO MILITARY ATTACHE ACTIVITIES OR TO MILITARY ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUPS OR MILITARY AID MISSIONS, WHO WERE PRESENT IN FOREIGN COUNTRIES ON JANUARY 1, 1974, AND WHO WERE CITIZENS OR NATIONALS OF THE UNITED STATES, SHOULD BE SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCED. END QUOTE. BILL FURTHER REQUIRES SECRETARY OF STATE TO REPORT TO CONGRESS BY APRIL 26, 1975 ON THE STEPS HE HAS TAKEN TO

CARRY OUT THE PROVISIONS OF THIS SECTION.

3. LEGISLATIVE HISTORY SHOWS SENATE COMMITTEE INITIATED SUBSTANTIAL REDUCTION PROVISION, CALLING ORIGINALLY FOR 10 PER CENT REDUCTION OF RELEVANT DEFENSE ELEMENTS. ORIGINAL SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT (MAY 9, 1974) FURTHER STATES: QUOTE THIS PROVISION APPLIES TO ALL PERSONNEL SERVING IN DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICES, MILITARY ASSISTANCE ADVISORY GROUPS, MILITARY MISSIONS, MILITARY GROUPS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FIELD TEAMS (TAFTS) AND ANY OTHER MILITARY ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES REGARDLESS OF NOMENCLATURE. END QUOTE - COMMITTEE STAFF SPOKESMAN HAS ELABORATED THAT COMMITTEE'S CONCERN EXTENDS TO MILITARY-SERVICE - FUNDED, AND HOST-GOVERNMENT-REIMBURSED ELEMENTS AS WELL AS TO MAP-FUNDED ELEMENTS.

4. IN RESPONSE TO REQUEST BY CHAIRMAN OF NSC UNDER SECRETARIES COMMITTEE FOR RELEVANT DOD MANNING DATA, DEFENSE HAS PROJECTED A 20 PER CENT REDUCTION FOR MAAGS AND DAOS, SHOWING INTER ALIA THE FOLLOWING AUTHORIZED STRENGTH TOTALS FOR US NATIONALS IN THAILAND:

	PROJECTION		
	1 JAN 74	1 JAN 75	30 JUN 75
MAAGS, ETC.	261	174	174
DEFENSE ATTACHE OFFICE	15	14	13

5. DEPARTMENT WISHES TO CLARIFY AND IF NECESSARY REFINE FIGURES FOR THAILAND, ESPECIALLY IN LIGHT OF DATA WHICH EMBASSY HAS REPORTED OR RECORDED ON VARIOUS OCCASIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, EMBASSY'S OCTOBER 3, 1973 STAFFING REPORT SHOWED MACTHAI WITH 524 AMERICANS (AS OF 8/31/73) AND CONFIDENTIAL

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ATTACHE OFFICE WITH 16. EMBASSY'S APRIL 1, 1974 STAFFING REPORT SHOWED (AND BANGKOK 10398 CONFIRMED) MACTHAI/JUSMAG AMERICAN STRENGTH AS 922. EMBASSY'S JANUARY 1, 1975 STAFFING REPORT SHOWS MACTHAI/JUSMAG AT 2,266 AMERICANS AND ATTACHES AT 71. THE US ARMED FORCES TROOP LIST AND STRENGTH REPORT, THAILAND, ON THE OTHER HAND, LISTED MACTHAI/JUSMAG AND DAO PERSONNEL ON HAND AS OF 8/31/73, 3/31/74, AND 12/31/74, AS 524 AND 35, 927 AND

35, AND 775 AND 30, RESECTIVELY.

6. WE UNDERSTAND THAT APPARENT INCREASE IN THE SIZE OF THE MAAG ELEMENT AS REFLECTED IN EMBASSY'S STAFFING REPORT CAN BE EXPLAINED IN TERMS OF COMMAND CONSOLIDATION UNDER THE AEGIS OF COMUSMACTHAI/JUSMAGTHAI AS OUR TOTAL MILITARY PRESENCE IN THAILAND HAS BEEN REDUCED. WE ALSO UNDERSTAND THAT THE DISCREPANCY IN DAO MANNING

LEVELS REFLECTED IN EMBASSY STAFFING REPORT AND TROOP LIST MAY BE DUE FORMER INCLUDING PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO A SEPARATE UNIT OR UNITS WHICH IN REALITY ARE NEITHER PHYSICALLY NOR ADMINISTRATIVELY PART OF THE DAO. NONE-THELESS, THE EXISTENCE OF THESE SEEMING STATISTICAL DISCREPANCIES NECESSITATES THAT WE CLARIFY IN DETAIL WHAT ELEMENTS ARE INCLUDED IN THE SEVERAL EMBASSY REPORTS AND COUNTS, ESPECIALLY SINCE POST STAFFING TABLES (BEING UNCLASSIFIED) MAY EASILY BE IN THE HANDS OF CONGRESSMEN OR COMMITTEE STAFFERS.

7. SPECIFICALLY, WE NEED DATA ON CHANGES IN THE LEVEL OF PERSONNEL ACTUALLY ENGAGED IN MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND DAO ACTIVITIES OVER THE LAST FEW YEARS. WE REALIZE THAT A SIGNIFICANT ELEMENT OF WHAT WAS FORMERLY USARSUPTHAI IS ENGAGED IN SUPPORT OF US MILITARY OPERATIONAL UNITS STATIONED IN THAILAND BUT WE UNDERSTAND THAT A NOT INSIGNIFICANT ADDITIONAL MISSION IS TO SUPPORT THE ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR THAILAND, CAMBODIA, LAOS AND PERHAPS EVEN VIETNAM. WE NEED YOUR BEST ESTIMATE OF THE DIVISION OF LABOR, BOTH BY FUNCTION (SUPPORT OF US OPERATIONAL UNITS VS. ASSISTANCE TO FOREIGN COUNTRIES) AND BY COUNTRY INVOLVED (THAILAND, CAMBODIA, ETC.). IN THIS REGARD, THE T & L DETACHMENT AT UDORN, WHICH WE CONFIDENTIAL

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ALSO UNDERSTAND MAY BE CARRIED AS PART OF MACTHAI/JUSMAG IN THE MOST RECENT STAFFING REPORT IF NOT THE TROOP LIST, IS ENGAGED IN STRICTLY MAAG ACTIVITIES ON BEHALF OF LAOS AND CAMBODIA.

8. FINALLY, DEPARTMENT WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE HAVING EMBASSY'S VIEWS AS TO PAST AND PROJECTED MANNING LEVELS FOR DOD ELEMENTS IN THAILAND UHICH SHOULD BE REPORTED TO CONGRESS IN CONNECTION WITH SECTION 15, P.L. 93-475. WE ARE CONCERNED TO HAVE ACCURATE, RESPONSIVE AND SUPORTABLE DATA WHETHER OR NOT THESE INDICATE A REDUCTION IN PERSONNEL. INGERSOLL

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